

Woodburn Elementary takes shape

CAC to study boundaries, make recommendation to school board.

The land has been developed, the foundation has been poured and the walls are being erected at the new Woodburn Elementary School, which is slated to open in the fall of 2013. And while construction crews work on the school's physical structure, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will begin looking at boundary attendance areas to prepare for the school's opening day. The committee will tackle two important tasks:

- » Adjust the elementary school attendance areas (from five to six)
- » Determine which elementary schools will feed into which of the middle schools (Liberty and Skyridge)

As part of their work, the committee will review significant data including future growth projections, school capacities, and student demographics. According to Heidi Rosenberg, the district capital program director, the group will work to match enrollment with school capacity, balance the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch (socio-economic factor) at each school, and consider neighborhood boundaries. Those elements are important to the school board and have proven successful for Camas in the past, Rosenberg said. The board has also requested that if a student is within a school's walk zone they will attend that school, regardless of where the boundaries are drawn. The group will also study enrollment projections 10 years into the future to determine high growth areas. Historic and future developments, neighborhoods and transportation routes are considered in the planning effort. "We've been so fortunate to have received significant assistance and a great amount of data related to current and future growth from Paul Dennis of the Cascade

Planning Group," said Rosenberg.

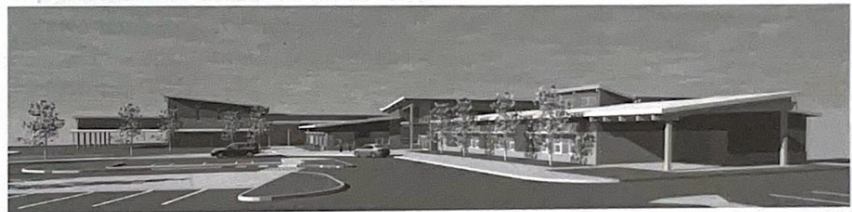
The committee plans to hold "listening posts" this spring to hear from the community about the proposed new boundaries. The board's final decision is slated for the end of May.

Woodburn Elementary is the last major project from the bond measure approved in 2007. The district was fortunate to have capitalized on a \$15 million Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB), which provided extremely low interest rates, saving Camas taxpayers millions of dollars. That money must be spent by December 2012, so it aligned nicely with the Woodburn project.

Lacamas Heights Elementary

The boundary committee will not be deciding what will happen when it's time for Lacamas to receive repairs and improvements. "We know that we'll keep Lacamas as an elementary school, and it is going to need some updates, but it's too early to determine that schedule," said Superintendent Mike Nerland. "There are many variables, including budget and enrollment factors to consider," he added. He had praise for the dedicated committee members who are volunteering their time to work on boundaries. "They have a big job ahead of them and I appreciate their interest and commitment."

The vision of Woodburn Elementary School



Woodburn Elementary School

- » Can accommodate 600 students
- » Two stories (built into the hill like Prune Hill Elementary)
- » 71,383 square feet
- » Concrete masonry and metal siding exterior
- » Rich, earth-tone colors
- » Lacamas Lake Regional Park adjacent to school
- » 24 basic education classrooms, plus pre-school, library, computer lab, music room, cafeteria and gymnasium
- » Covered play area and several covered walkways

Boundary Review Criteria

The Boundary Review Committee will weigh the following established criteria in their decisions and final recommendation:

- » Anticipate future growth
- » Match enrollment with capacity at each school
- » Minimize cumulative student travel and transportation costs
- » Include walk zones in each school attendance boundary
- » Consider neighborhood connectivity
- » Align middle school attendance boundaries with elementary feeder schools
- » Provide socio-economic balance